AN ORDINANCE OF THE LORDS & COMMONS Assembled in PARLIAMENT: FOR Removing Obstructions in the Sale of *BISHOPS-LANDS.*

LONDON,
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Die Jovis, 2. Decemb. 1647.

An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, For *Removing obstructions in the Sale of* BISHOPS-LANDS.

THe Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament for the more speedy sale of the Mannors, Lands, and Possessions of the late Arch-bishops and Bishops, and removall of severall Obstructions which hinder the sale thereof, Do Ordain and Declare, and be it ordained and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the Contractors appointed by ordinance of Parliament of the 16. of *November*, 1646. to Contract for, and sell the said Lands and Possessions, or any five of them are hereby appointed, authorized and impowered to peruse all Surveys returned, and to be returned of the said Lands and possessions, and to amend upon due proof made before them upon oath al mistakes in Misnosmer of any person or persons, places or things; And likewise without Oath to amend all other misprisions in mis-casting the totall of any particular summes of Money, or number of Acres, or such other like mistakes. And also to make such amendments

in Surveys returned, and to inſert ſuch words of courſe in particulars, or Conveyances as they ſhall think fit and neceſſary to paſſe ſuch Eſtates as they ſhall Contract for to the Purchaſers according to the true intent and meaning of the Contracts which they ſhall make; And to order and direct the reſpective Surveyors for review or amendment of any Surveys returned, as they ſhall ſee cauſe: And alſo to adde by way of ſupplement Certificates of any Eſtates or Intereſts which ſhall bee made appear to them in manner and form hereafter expreſſed: To which end and purpoſe be it further ordained by the ſaid Lords and Commons, That all and every perſon and perſons who claim or pretend any intereſt or eſtate in any of the ſaid Lands and Poſſeſſions, or any Annuity, Rent-charge, or other charge iſſuing out of the ſame, and have not made their claims, produced their evidences, or otherwiſe made their Eſtates and intereſts appear to the reſpective Surveyors of the Lands and Tenements out of which they claim ſuch Eſtates, before the return of their reſpective Surveys, (notice and warning being given by the ſaid Surveyors according to the Inſtructions of both Houſes of Parliament in that behalf) ſhall, and are hereby required within forty dayes next after the publication of this Ordinance, in ſuch manner as is hereafter expreſſed, or return of their reſpective Surveys to make their claims, or produce and ſhew forth their Evidences, or otherwiſe make their Eſtates and Intereſts appear to the ſaid Contractors upon Oath of one or more credible witneſſes. And alſo all other perſons claiming any ſuch Intereſt, Eſtate, Annuity, or Rent-charge who ſhall not make their Claims, produce their Evidence, or otherwiſe make their Intereſts and Eſtates appear to the Surveyors of the Lands and Tenements out of which they claim ſuch Eſtates and

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Annuities, or Rents-charge before the return of their respective Certificate, shal, and are hereby required within Forty dayes next after the publication of this Ordinance as aforesaid, or return of the said respective Certificates, make their Claims, or produce and shew forth their Evidences, or otherwise make their Estates and Interests appear to the said Contractors by Oaths aforesaid; which Oath and Oaths the said Contractors, or any five of them are hereby authorized from time to time to administer. And (in case default be made by any such person in making their said Claims, or Estates, or Interests, to appeare in manner and form aforesaid;) That then all and every such person and persons for failing shall forfeit and lose their respective Interests, Estates, Annuities and Rents-charge, and the Lands and Tenements out of which they shall claim the same, shall, and may be sold as in possession, in like manner as other the Lands and Possessions of the said Archbishops and Bishops. And be it Ordained by the said Lords and Commons that it be, and is hereby left to the judgment and discretion of the said Contractors, or any five of them to sell any Castles, Palaces, or other Houses parcell of the Lands and Possessions aforesaid, at such rates and prices as they shall conceive most conducing to the advantage and benefit of the Commonwealth, though at lower rates then their materialls are valued by the Surveys returned thereof. And be it further Ordained, That (in case any suit shall hereafter bee commenced by any person or persons for recovery or eviction of any part or parcell of the Lands or Possessions of any the said late Archbishops and Bishops aforesaid,) the Trustees aforesaid, or any five or more of them be, and are hereby authorized and inabled at the publique charge

charge to defend the ſaid ſuit, and to make good the Rent returned by the Survey during ſuch ſuit: And (in caſe of eviction of any part or parcell of the ſaid Lands or Poſſeſſions) to give warrant to the Treaſurers to repay unto ſach perſon or perſons from whom ſuch Land or Eſtate ſhall bee evicted, the Moneys by him advanced for ſuch purchaſe, together with ſuch neceſſary diſburſments as he or they have laid out by reaſon of the ſaid ſuit; which Warrant ſhall be ſufficient to the Treaſurers in that behalf to pay and ſatisfie the ſame. And it is alſo Ordained, That if after the ſale of any of the Mannors, Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments of the late Archbiſhops or Biſhops, the reſpective Purchaſers thereof ſhall make complaint unto the Truſtees, or any Five of them, that the reſpective Premiſes by them purchaſed, are charged with, or lyable to the payment of any Rents, Annuities, Charges, Boots, Boones, Payments, Iſſues or Profits whatſoever unto any Steward, Auditor, Receiver, Bayliffe, Officer, Tenant, or other Perſon whatſoever which have not been formerly repriſed and defaulked to the ſaid Purchaſers upon their reſpective Purchaſes of the Premiſes; That then the ſaid Truſtees, or any Five of them, ſhall ſearch out, heare, examine, and aſcertain the ſame; and thereupon certifie the ſaid Rents, Annuities, Charges, Bootes, Boones, Payments, Iſſues or Profits to the Contractors, or any five of them; whereupon the ſaid Contractors, or any Five of them ſhall allow unto the ſaid reſpective Purchaſers of the Premiſes by way of repriſall rateably and proportionably, according to ſuch rates as they paid or contracted for the ſaid purchaſed Premiſes, and ſhall accordingly aſcertain and certifie the ſame to the reſpective Treaſurers for the

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ſale of Biſhops Lands, or any two of them, who are hereby required and authorized to defalke out of the Moiety unpaid in, or to pay unto the ſaid reſpective Purchaſers according to ſuch Certificate the reſpective ſummes ſo to be reprized as is aforeſaid, with intereſt after the rate of Eight pounds *per Centum* to be accounted from the time of the payment of their Purchaſe-money out of the money which they ſhall have in their Treaſury: And (in caſe at the time of the preſenting ſuch Certificate as aforeſaid, (the ſaid Treaſurers have not Money enough in Caſh to ſatisfie the ſame) then they are hereby enjoyned to make payment thereof out of the firſt Moneys which ſhall come into their ſaid Treaſury, or be received by them or any other by their appointment. And are not to pay, or appoint to bee paid any other ſumme of Money whatſoever, untill ſuch repriſalls as aforeſaid bee firſt ſatisfied and paid. And the Warrant of the ſaid Truſtees, together with the receipt of the ſaid Purchaſer or Purchaſers ſhall be to the ſaid Treaſurers a ſufficient diſcharge. And the ſaid Truſtees or any Five of them are hereby authorized and required to cauſe this preſent Ordinance to be printed, and ſo ſend Copies thereof to the Sheriffs of the reſpective Counties of the Kingdome of *England*, and Dominion of *Wales*, where any of the Mannors, Lands, Tenements, or Poſſeſſions of the ſaid Archbiſhops or Biſhops are; which ſaid Sheriffs reſpectively are hereby required to publiſh the ſame in their County-Courts the next County-Court day after they ſhall receive the ſame: and alſo in open Market in the Shire-Town the next Market day after the receipt thereof: And ſhall certifie the day and place of the publication made as aforeſaid to the ſaid Truſtees within Twenty dayes after the ſame ſhall be

publiſhed.

published. And be it lastly Ordained, That this present Ordinance shall bee valid according to the tenor and true meaning thereof, any former or other Ordinance or Ordinances concerning the sale of the Lands and Possessions of the said late Archbishops and Bishops, or any clause, article or thing in them or any of them contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Joh. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

FINIS.